



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

News Release

Library Honoured at Vancouver Island Commercial Building Awards Night, Takes Home Two Awards

NANAIMO, May 2, 2014 – The Vancouver Island Regional Library took home two honours at the 7th Annual Vancouver Island Commercial Building Awards on April 24th in recognition of two of its newest branches officially opened in 2013.

The Award of Excellence recognized both the new Cowichan Lake and Cumberland branches of the Vancouver Island Regional Library within the Community Institutional category.

According to the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB), the Commercial Building Awards celebrate the best in commercial and industrial construction north of the Malahat. This year, the Awards event hosted a sell-out crowd after having received a near record number of nominations.

The Cumberland branch was officially opened to the community in November, 2013. This design-build project, which incorporated features and building characteristics of the community, resulted in a 3,200 sq. ft. open-concept facility that includes a fireplace, a warm and inviting interior with reading spaces, children's area with literacy stations, public computers with internet stations, an x-box station, free wireless internet and local programming and literacy training.

The Cowichan Lake branch was also officially opened in November, 2013, and is a purpose-built, standalone 3,000 sq. ft. facility with land generously donated by the Town of Lake Cowichan. Featuring a modern design, the space comfortably hosts 17,000 items in its collection and a series of alcoves for reading and programming for the community.

Both projects were designed and submitted by Low Hammond Rowe Architects Inc., based out of Victoria, B.C.

Other winners within the Community Institutional category included the Nanoose Bay Fire Hall, and within other categories, Port Place Shopping Centre, Great-West Student Residences of Nanaimo, and the Nanaimo Golf Club with Judges Choice and best overall winner, to name a few.

Supporting the Awards event included title sponsor, Re/MAX Commercial, and gold sponsors, Colliers International and Coastal Community Credit Union.

For more information about the Cumberland and Cowichan Lake Library branches, visit us at www.virl.bc.ca. For more information about the Vancouver Island Commercial Building Awards, visit www.vireb.com.

Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is the fourth largest library system in British Columbia. We serve over 430,000 people on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and Bella Coola on the Central Coast through 38 branch libraries, a virtual branch, and a books-by-mail service. VIRL's holdings number one-million and include books, magazines, CD's and DVD's. Administrative offices are located in Nanaimo.

For more information contact:

Natasha Bartlett
Marketing and Communications Officer
250.753-1154 x 249
nbartlett@virl.bc.ca